

Risk Assessment of Low-Level Phased Array Radio Frequency Energy **Purpose**

- ❑ Introduction of Issue
- ❑ Present USAF questions to the AFEB
- ❑ Provide background on issues and concerns

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Issue

Does exposure to very low level ambient radio frequency energy from PAVE PAWS radar facility contribute to elevated incidence/ prevalence of adverse health outcome greater than would be expected?

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- A. Are current exposure standards adequate
- B. Are the AF documents related to proposed risk evaluation adequate
- C. Is there an indication for immediate initiation of further epidemiological investigations for DoD members or communities

Risk Assessment of Low-Level Phased Array Radio Frequency Background

- ❑ AF is executing this effort in support of the proposed Service life Extension Program
- ❑ Public concerns fueled by various actions, issues and perceptions
 - ❑ “Shaky” start (1979): lawsuit, response to epidemiological study request
 - ❑ Military trustworthiness: Superfund Site, power upgrades without notification, “life expectancy” was 20 years, “secret” data,
 - ❑ Congressional delegation cognizant of public concerns
 - ❑ Located on a Superfund Site
 - ❑ Certain cancer rates statistically elevated
 - ❑ AF physician claims of specific knowledge of great health

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Three Pronged Energy Approach

- National Research Council
 - Assess appropriateness of using continuous or pulsed wave biological data to assess effect of phased array
 - Update 1979 NRC effort
- Waveform Characterization
 - Attempt to characterize PAVE PAWS radar wave energy to new specifications
- Pave Paws Public Health Steering Group
 - Using RFE exposure standards, evaluate biologically plausible disease outcomes to PAVE PAWS exposure

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The Air Force-Community Partnership

- PAVE PAWS Public Health Steering Group
 - Local, county and state public health professional
 - Public meetings
 - Oversees and participates in efforts to addressing this health issue
- Addressing communities public health concerns about PAVE PAWS
 - Using health and safety RFE exposure standards, evaluate biologically plausible disease outcomes to exposure to PAVE PAWS energy
 - “Exposure” assessment
 - Epidemiological evaluation